DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 322 941 JC 900 401

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TITLE A Study of Customized Contract Training Programs at Selected Community Colleges.
PUB DATE Mar 89
NOTE 202p.; Ph.D. Dissertation, University of Oregon.
AVAILABLE FROM University Microfilm International, 300 N. Zeeb Rd., Ann Arbor, MI 48106 (Order No. 89-18957).
PUB TYPE Dissertations/Theses - Doctoral Dissertations (041) -- Reports - Research/Technical (143)

EDRS PRICE Document Not Available from EDRS.
DESCRIPTORS *Administrator Attitudes; *College Role; Community Colleges; Curriculum Development; Delphi Technique; Educational Finance; Education Work Relationship; Enrollment Trends; *Job Training; Mission Statements; Program Development; Questionnaires; *School Business Relationship; School Community Relationship; Two Year Colleges; Vocational Education
IDENTIFIERS *Contract Training Programs

ABSTRACT

In 1987, a study was conducted to assess the status of customized contract training programs in 16 League for Innovation community college districts and to examine the issues surrounding the establishment of these programs. An initial survey requested information on the current status of contract training programs. A subsequent survey, employing the Delphi technique, was undertaken to assess the opinions of persons in the selected colleges who would likely influence the development of contract training programs in their colleges. Forty-seven of 50 chief executive officers, chief academic officers, and program administrators responded to 3 rounds of questionnaires containing 30 statements drawn from the literature and judged to be key issues. Findings of the study indicated that: (1) contract training programs increased dramatically over the past decade with enrollments increasing from less than 5,000 in 1980 to nearly 68,000 at the time of the survey; (2) contract training programs were a significant link between the colleges and industry; (3) the majority of the institutions did not profit financially from the programs; however, panelists for the Delphi study believed that the programs helped fulfill the mission of the college; and (4) ideally, contract training programs are developed cooperatively by the college and the client firm. Appendixes include the preliminary and Delphi survey instruments, a list of study participants, and tables summarizing the responses of the three groups surveyed to each of the 30 survey statements. (Author/JMC)

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